

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data display system including a client computer and a server connected through a network, comprising:

a first memory storing a plurality of data definition files of a first type defining contents of data to be displayed on said client computer;

5 a second memory storing a data definition file defining, as data, file names of said data definition files of the first type;

a third memory storing a style definition file, defining a style for displaying said data definition file, and switching a file to be displayed among said plurality of data definition files of the first type by using said data definition file of the second type; and

10 a display displaying data on the client computer using the files stored in said first, second and third memories.

2. The data display system according to claim 1, wherein display language is switched by switching a file used for display by said style definition file.

3. The data display system according to claim 1, wherein by using said data definition file of the second type in said client computer, a menu for selecting a file used for display is displayed; and

5 by receiving a user's selection through said menu, the file used for display is switched.

4. The data display system according to claim 1, wherein said data definition file is XML and said style definition file is XSLT.

5. The data display system according to claim 1, further comprising

a fourth memory storing a data definition file of a third type defining a portion to be displayed among contents of the data of said data definition file of the first type; wherein

5       said display displays data in said client computer by using files stored in said first, second, third and fourth memories.

6.   The data display system according to claim 5, wherein  
      said data definition file of the third type describes device information; and  
      each of said plurality of data definition files of the first type has same structure, holds the device information as tag attribute, and has a description corresponding to a  
5       characteristic of the data definition file including a description corresponding to a language of the data definition file.

7.   A data output apparatus performing at least one of display output and external output of data, comprising:

      a first memory storing a plurality of data definition files of a first type defining contents of data to be displayed;

5       a second memory storing a data definition file of a second type defining, as data, file names of said data definition files of the first type;

      a third memory storing a style definition file, defining a style for displaying a data definition file, and switching a file to be displayed among said plurality of data definition files of the first type by using said data definition file of the second type; and

10       an output equipment outputting data using the files stored in said first, second and third memories.

8.   The data output apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising

      a fourth memory storing a data definition file of a third type defining a portion to be displayed among contents of the data of said data definition file of the first type;

wherein

5           said output equipment outputs data using files stored in said first, second, third and fourth memories.

9.   The data output apparatus according to claim 8, wherein  
      said data definition file of the third type describes device information; and  
      each of said plurality of data definition files of the first type has same structure,  
holds the device information as tag attribute, and has a description corresponding to a  
5   characteristic of the data definition file including a description corresponding to a  
      language of the data definition file.

10.   An image forming apparatus having a communication function, comprising  
the data output apparatus according to claim 7.

11.   A data display apparatus displaying data downloaded from a server,  
wherein

      said server stores a plurality of data definition files of a first type defining  
      contents of data to be displayed, a data definition file of a second type defining, as data,  
5   file names of said data definition files of the first type, and a style definition file, defining  
      a style for displaying a data definition file, and switching a file to be displayed among  
      said plurality of data definition files of the first type by using said data definition file of  
      the second type;

      said data display apparatus comprising:

10       a receiver receiving a file necessary for display among said data definition files of  
the first type, by using said style definition file and said data definition file of the second  
type; and

      a display presenting a display using the file received by said receiver.

12. The data display apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
said server further stores a data definition file of a third type defining a portion to  
be displayed among contents of the data of said data definition file of the first type; and  
said receiver further receives said data definition file of the third type.

13. The data display apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
said data definition file of the third type describes device information; and  
each of said plurality of data definition files of the first type has same structure,  
holds the device information as tag attribute, and has a description corresponding to a  
5 characteristic of the data definition file including a description corresponding to a  
language of the data definition file.

14. A data display program product, displaying data downloaded from a server,  
wherein  
said server stores a plurality of data definition files of a first type defining  
contents of data to be displayed, a data definition file of a second type defining, as data,  
5 file names of said data definition files of the first type, and a style definition file, defining  
a style for displaying a data definition file, and switching a file to be displayed among  
said plurality of data definition files of the first type by using said data definition file of  
the second type;

10 said data display program product causing a computer to execute  
a receiving step of receiving a file necessary for display among said data  
definition files of the first type, by using said style definition file and said data definition  
file of the second type, and  
a display step of presenting a display using the file received in said receiving step.

15. The data display program product according to claim 14, wherein  
said server further stores a data definition file of a third type defining a portion to

be displayed among contents of the data of said data definition file of the first type; and  
in said receiving step, said data definition file of the third type is further received.

16. The data display program product according to claim 15, wherein  
said data definition file of the third type describes device information; and  
each of said plurality of data definition files of the first type has same structure,  
holds the device information as tag attribute, and has a description corresponding to a  
5 characteristic of the data definition file including a description corresponding to a  
language of the data definition file.